Volunteering

To monitor the woodland and lake, we hold regular working parties to maintain the area and keep it free from litter.
These working parties welcome anyone wishing to help with the upkeep.

For further information on volunteering contact:

Steve Robbins, Chair 01728 860304
Howard Simpson, Secretary 01728 860138



Fishing

Fishing by rod and line is permitted provided anglers hold a valid rod licence (not applicable to under 13 year olds).
Catch and release only.
Barbless hooks only.
Please do not leave litter.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads in the vicinity of the lake.
Please clear up dog poo!
Please keep dogs out of the lake.
Dogs must be kept under close control in the woodland area.

Other

Cycling not permitted.
No swimming.

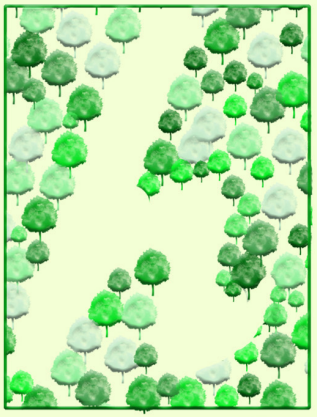
Useful information

Website: www.hoppit.uk
QR code:

Email: info@hoppit.uk

Fishing licence information and purchase:
www.gov.uk/fishing-licences





Hoppit Wood and Lake, Debenham



The story so far

At the turn of the century, land in this area was identified as a site where trees could be planted out as part of the village's millennium project, and The Woodland Trust created the Hoggs Kiss wood. In 2004, the Countryside Agency Market Towns Initiative (MTI) called a public meeting in Debenham, their aim being to help the village attract visitors, develop facilities and to stimulate the local economy. Following a fundraising campaign, work began on the 'Hoppit Woodland and Lake'.

The name Hoppit was chosen as it was once the name of a landowner "La Hopper" of an ancient field nearby,a name found on a 1630 tithe map. A 'hoppit' was a small meadow by a house, the word being taken from the term 'hope', meaning an enclosure.

Aims

The aims of the Hoppit project are to:

- Influence the ecological succession of the site to preserve and increase its wildlife value.
- To create more habitat.
- To provide an amenity for recreation.
- To provide an educational resource.
- To provide woodland products from coppicing, etc.
- To provide an angling facility within the village.

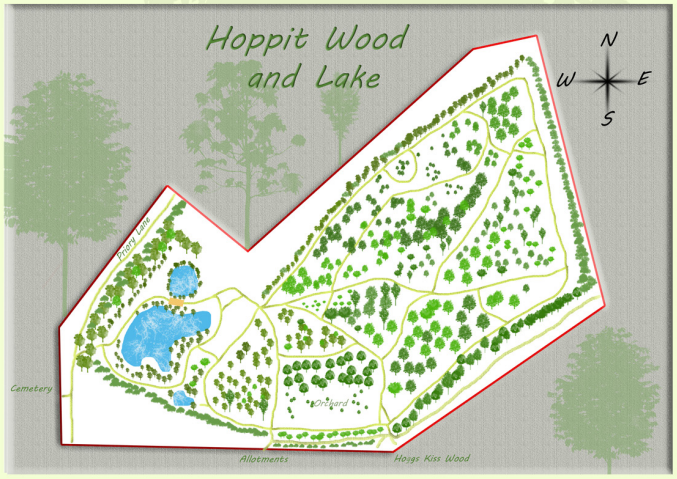
The Work Begins

Over 1,000 trees were planted in 2004, and each year over the next five years, more and more trees were added. A total of around 5,000 trees have been planted.

The lake was stocked with nearly 1,000 fish, including tench,roach and carp.







The Present

The Hoppit is over 20 years old and has become a mature woodland. We are now moving into a management phase. The lake is well used and three picnic benches have been installed around the wood to allow people to stop and enjoy the habitat.

As well as providing a place for recreation, it has become a rich wildlife habitat and features an ever increasing range of flora and fauna. Willow warblers, linnets, yellowhammers and woodpeckers nest at the site. There are marsh, bee and pyramid orchids in the wood,Oxeye daisy are also doing well and the birdsfoot trefoil is spreading all over.





The Future

Areas of the wood will be managed in an effort to limit access by people and dogs in order to avoid disturbance to ground nesting birds. The hedge edges will be allowed to grow to create habitat for other nesting birds. Paths will continue to be mowed to make interesting walks through the wood.